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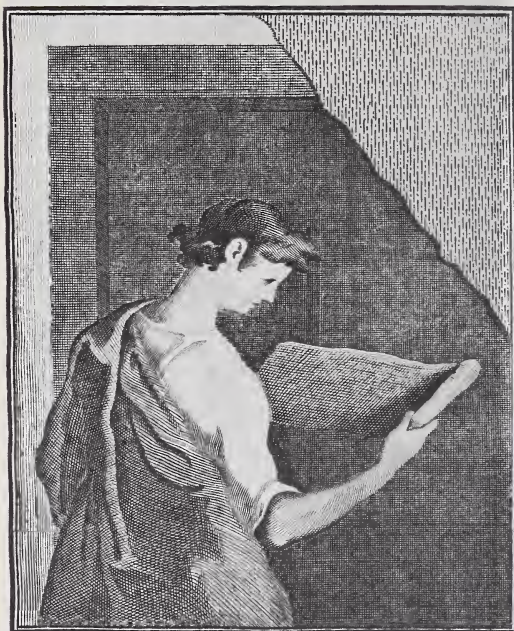
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FIFTIETH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE COUNCIL OF THE

ROYAL SCOTTISH ACADEMY

OF

PAINTING, SCULPTURE, AND
ARCHITECTURE



INSTITUTED 1826.

INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER 1838.

EDINBURGH : THOMAS AND ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN, AND TO THE UNIVERSITY.

1877.

Council and Office-Bearers

OF THE

ROYAL SCOTTISH ACADEMY

OF

Painting, Sculpture, and Architecture,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 1877.

Council.

SIR DANIEL MACNEE, PRESIDENT AND TRUSTEE.

KENNETH MACLEAY, Esq.

SAMUEL BOUGH, Esq.

ALEXANDER FRASER, Esq.

GEORGE HAY, Esq.

WILLIAM M'TAGGART, Esq.

J. DICK PEDDIE, Esq.

WILLIAM BRODIE, Esq., SECRETARY AND TRUSTEE.

CHARLES LEES, Esq., TREASURER AND TRUSTEE.

KENNETH MACLEAY, Esq.,

TRUSTEE.

KENNETH MACLEAY, Esq.,

} AUDITORS.

WALLER H. PATON, Esq.,

JAMES DRUMMOND, Esq.,

LIBRARIAN.

SAMUEL BOUGH, Esq.,

} CURATORS OF LIBRARY.

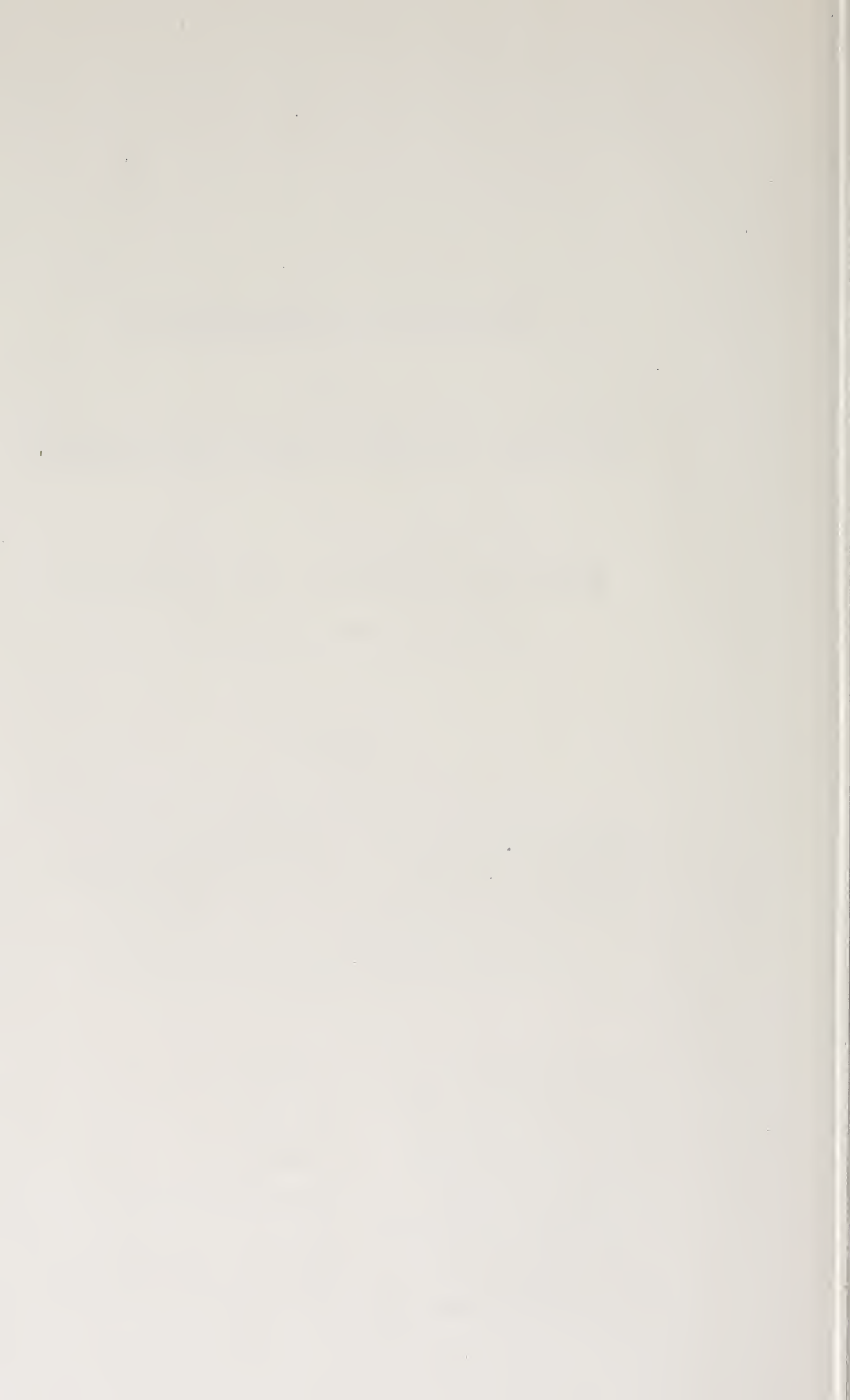
ALEXANDER FRASER, Esq.,

KENNETH MACLEAY, Esq.,

} VISITORS OF THE LIFE SCHOOL.

J. M. BARCLAY, Esq.,

WILLIAM M'TAGGART, Esq.,



REPORT.

THE COUNCIL of 1877, in retiring from office, have the pleasant duty of reporting the continued and increasing prosperity of the Academy in all its departments, notwithstanding the lamented losses caused by death last year, and the consequent absence from the Exhibition Catalogue of more than one honoured name which had not for many years failed to appear there.

I. The Fifty-first Exhibition of the Academy was opened on the 17th of February, and closed on the 12th of May, having been open for seventy-one days, or six days less than that of the previous year.

It contained nine hundred and sixty-six Paintings, and fifty works in Sculpture. In consequence of the great number of works sent for exhibition, and the large size of some of them, the Council were sorry to be under the necessity of declining, for want of space, more pictures than usual: the total number of exhibited works being considerably under that of last year.

II. The Exhibition proved a most attractive one, and although enriched by several works from friends in London

(among whom may be mentioned J. E. Millais, R.A., *H.R.S.A.*, John Pettie, R.A., *H.R.S.A.*, W. Q. Orchardson, A.R.A., *H.R.S.A.*, and Mr. Luke Fildes), it yet was essentially a Scottish Exhibition; all the older members of the Academy fully keeping up their well-earned reputation, and the younger men coming well to the front, and showing a most hopeful progress, each in his own individual style. The amount realised by the sale of works was higher than that of any former year, affording most satisfactory evidence of the increased interest taken in Art. The attendance of visitors was also above that of most former years.

III. The Annual Dinner took place in the Galleries on the 16th of February, when the Academy entertained a large company of Noblemen and Gentlemen distinguished for their enlightened and loving promotion of Art.

Sir Daniel Macnee took the chair for the first time as President, there having been no dinner last year in consequence of the death of Sir George Harvey. As in former years, the Galleries were opened some time before the dinner-hour in order that the guests might enjoy a private view of the Exhibition.

IV. At the Statutory Meeting of the Academy, held on the 10th of February, for the purpose of filling up the blanks caused by the lamented death of the late President Sir George Harvey, David Bryce, R.S.A., and Robert Thorburn Ross, R.S.A. Messrs. George Reid, John B. McDonald, and John Smart were duly elected Academicians. These elections, along with the vacancy caused by the death, last year, of Thomas Clark, A.R.S.A., has caused four¹ vacancies in the ranks of the Associates, three of which, in accordance with

¹ The resignation of Peter Graham, A.R.A., has since caused another vacancy in the Associateship.

the resolution of the Academy, fall to be filled up at the meeting at which this Report is read.

V. The following is an extract from the report of the Curators of the Library :—

“The books are generally in good condition, and the attendance much as usual. In order to render the Library more useful, they recommend that a Catalogue of the books be printed.”

The books added to the Library during the past year are :—

‘Sciences et Lettres au Moyen Age,’ par Paul Lacroix. H. Wallon’s ‘Life of Jeanne d’Arc.’ ‘Life of J. C. Schetky,’ by his daughter. W. H. Willshire’s ‘Ancient Prints.’ ‘Lives of the Painters,’ by Vasari, and MS. on Oil Painting, the two latter presented by Mrs. Saunders.

VI. The Report of the Visitors of the Life School is to the following effect :—

“The Session of the Life Class for 1876-77 commenced on 9th November 1876, and finished 6th July 1877, having run one hundred nights, with an aggregate attendance of 1513, which shows an average of $15\frac{1}{3}$. The morning class opened on 1st May, and closed 6th July, being thirty mornings, with an aggregate attendance of 317, or an average of $10\frac{1}{2}$. The Visitors have much pleasure in bearing testimony to the assiduity and application that each Student brought to bear on his work, as well as the exemplary conduct shown by all.

(Signed) J. M. BARCLAY, *Visitor*.
KENNETH MACLEAY, *Visitor*.
WILLIAM M'TAGGART, *Visitor*.”

The Council, having carefully examined the work done by the Students in the Life School, and the designs sent

in competition for the Stuart Prize, awarded the prizes as follows :—

Painting,	I.—T. WILSON.
„	II.—GEORGE REID.
Drawing,	I.—JAMES F. TAYLOR.
„	II.—P. C. GOLDIE.
Extra Prize for Sculpture Studies, T. S. BURNETT.	
Keith Prize,	ROBERT ROSS.
Stuart Prize,	{ E. KIRKPATRICK.
	{ THOMAS WILSON.
	{ P. W. ADAM.

Anatomical Prize.—There being only one drawing submitted, there was no competition for this prize.

The Council have to commend several of the Paintings and Drawings by Students, who having formerly received first-class prizes were held as not competing.

They have also pleasure in expressing their approbation of the feeling for Colour displayed in many of the studies. So much is this the case, that they had great difficulty in deciding to whom the prizes should be awarded. But while according this praise in regard to colour, they feel it to be their duty to direct the attention of the Students to the necessity of combining with that very important quality more earnest study of accuracy in drawing, feeling sure that if this is neglected in youth it can never be attained in after life. Among the light and shade studies they are glad to observe more attention has been paid to truth of form. And on the whole the Academy has to be congratulated on the continued efficiency of the Life School.

The Stuart Prize has called forth more effort than it did last year. The Council, however, while pleased with this, yet felt, on examining the designs sent in, that they could not award the whole prize to any of them.

They regret much—as former Councils have done—to find that this prize has not for years had the attention it deserves, especially from the senior students of the Academy.

VII. A General Meeting of the Academy was held on the 20th of April, at which Mr. William Forrest was unanimously elected an Honorary Member, in recognition of his eminent talents as an Engraver.

The Council at their meeting on the 7th September had the following letter laid before them :—

“SOUTH BANK, PEEBLES,
24th August 1877.

“*To the President and Council of the
Royal Scottish Academy.*

“GENTLEMEN,—As I find increasing difficulty year by year in fulfilling my obligations as a Member of the R.S.A., I beg most respectfully to resign my Associateship. I am fully conscious of the kind indulgence shown me by the Academy, but I feel that by retaining my Associateship any longer, I am only preventing some young man from being elected who would be a worthier and more useful Member.—I am, yours faithfully,

“PETER GRAHAM.”

The Secretary was instructed to write to Mr. Graham, expressing the regret of the Council at losing him as a Member of the Academy, but hoping that they may yet have his friendly co-operation, and, as often as possible, be favoured with his highly attractive works in the Annual Exhibitions.

VIII. The Council have much pleasure in recording the presentation to the Academy, by John Heugh, Esq., London, of a fine portrait, by Sir Henry Raeburn, purchased from the Raeburn family, of Miss Adam, afterwards Mrs. Kennedy of Dunure, a work in the artist's best style, rich in colour,

broad and powerful in treatment. This fine work has been added to the collection belonging to the Academy in the National Gallery, to which it will form a most valuable addition, and for which the Council did not fail to return their best thanks to the liberal donor.

IX. Mr. Patrick Allan Fraser, an esteemed Honorary Member and constant friend of the Academy, has again shown his kindly interest by presenting a fine proof impression of the admirable engraving by Thomas Barlow, A.R.A., from the picture by the late John Phillip, R.A., *H.R.S.A.*, of "La Gloria," one of the most powerful works of the lamented artist.

X. The Misses Harvey, and trustees of the late Sir George Harvey, *P.R.S.A.*, have presented fifty copies of Sir George's useful and instructive "Notes on the Royal Scottish Academy," for distribution among the Members and Students.

XI. The Council have also to record the gift, by James Archer, *R.S.A.*, of a portrait of Sir Daniel Macnee, *P.R.S.A.*, painted expressly for presentation to the Academy, a gift much prized for its intrinsic value as a work of art, and still more as a likeness of the much-esteemed President of the Academy.

XII. A very interesting portrait of the late R. T. Ross, *R.S.A.*, painted by himself when a young man, has been presented by his son, Mr. R. Ross.

XIII. A collection of Engravings—twenty-three in number—from works by the late Colvin Smith, *R.S.A.*, was presented by his nephew, Adam Gillies Smith, Esq., and added to the works of a similar kind in the Library.

XIV. A design was submitted to the Council by Captain J. MacLaine Watters of Newhall, accompanied by a letter, in which he asks the Academy to accept of a Bronze Medal to be made from it, and awarded annually to the best student in the Life Class. The design, which is by Sir Noel Paton, R.S.A., was approved of by the Council, and the gift accepted in the spirit in which it was offered. The medal is in course of preparation, and will be awarded next year.

The thanks of the Council were communicated to each of the donors of these valuable gifts.

XV. No name stands higher among the Landscape Painters of half a century ago than that of Alexander Nasmyth. He is styled by many "the Father of Scottish Landscape Painting." The Council were therefore much gratified when it was announced to them that his son, James Nasmyth, Esq., intended to endow a prize in his memory. The Academy, however, on having the conditions of Mr. Nasmyth's proposal before them, while fully recognising the generous spirit which dictated it, regretted to find that there were difficulties in the way of carrying it out, of such a serious nature as to put it out of their power to accept the gift on the terms proposed by Mr. Nasmyth. On these difficulties being fully stated to Mr. Nasmyth, a kind letter was received from him, to the effect that he saw the force of the objections to his proposed prize, and that he had it under consideration to inaugurate a Memorial in honour of his father, in a form which cannot fail to be highly acceptable to the Academy.

XVI. The Council have great regret in recording the death, on the 15th of May, of their esteemed Chaplain, the Reverend David Arnot, D.D., a man of dis-

tinguished talent in his own profession, and of eminent ability in more than one department of the Fine Arts, having shown great taste and considerable power of execution both as a Painter and a Sculptor. Dr. Arnot filled with honour and ability the office of Chaplain to the Academy for a period of more than sixteen years.

A fine cabinet portrait of Dr. Arnot, painted by Charles Lees, R.S.A., was presented by him to the Academy, and the cordial thanks of the Council were awarded to Mr. Lees for his gift.

XVII. The Academy has also this year suffered a great loss in the death, on the 12th August, of James Drummond, R.S.A., their esteemed Librarian, and Principal Curator of the Scottish National Gallery. The Academy, represented by the Council and a large number of Members, some of them having come from great distances for the purpose, paid the last mark of respect to their deceased friend by attending his funeral, and the Council afterwards agreed to the following minute, a copy of which was sent to Mr. Drummond's mother, with a letter of condolence in her bereavement :—

“With feelings of extreme regret the Council have to record on their minutes the death, on Sunday, the 12th instant, of their much esteemed brother Academician, James Drummond, who had for a period of more than thirty years been most indefatigable in promoting the interest and upholding the honour of the Academy in all its branches. As Librarian for the greater part of that period, his strong antiquarian tendencies, his extensive historical knowledge, and correct information as to costume of all kinds, rendered his advice and assistance quite invaluable, and it was at the call of every one in the least degree connected with Art, from the President of the Academy to the humblest of its students, while his extensive and well-selected collection of works of Art and Literature were as accessible to his

friends as to himself. Always ready with a kindly encouraging word or deed to the young artist, many a one will miss his bright, cheery, quick, suggestive advice, or his equally kindly word of warning. His works, which for more than forty years have never been absent from the walls of our Annual Exhibition, were so thoroughly studied, so carefully designed and elaborately carried out in their most minute details, that they will be much missed ; more especially as they were all devoted to a style of art in which he had few competitors. As filling the important office of Principal Curator of the National Gallery, for which he was so well qualified, his loss will be much felt, and it will be an anxious duty for the Council to suggest who is to succeed him in that very responsible situation."

The Council met soon after Mr. Drummond's death to consider the proper steps to be taken in order that the names of four Academicians, whom they considered suitable to fill the office of Principal Curator of the National Gallery, might be submitted to the Board of Manufactures. After anxious consideration it was resolved to send the Academicians a circular to the following effect :—

" ROYAL SCOTTISH ACADEMY,
September 7, 1877.

"DEAR SIR,—In consequence of the lamented death of Mr. James Drummond, Principal Curator of the National Gallery of Scotland, it becomes the duty of the Council of the Royal Scottish Academy, in terms of the Treasury Minute passed on the 25th of February 1858, for the appropriation and establishment of the National Gallery, to transmit four names of Members of the Academy to the Honourable the Board of Manufactures, from which they shall submit one for the approval of the Treasury.

"The Council are desirous to have the assistance of the Members of the Academy in enabling them to discharge this important duty, and I am accordingly instructed to request that you will have the goodness to intimate to me the names of the four Members whom you consider best qualified to fill the vacant office.

"To enable you to do this, I enclose a list of the Academicians, and have to request that you will return it to me on or before the 24th instant, with the names you select indicated by a cross, and also having the Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, to indicate the order of your preference.—I am, Dear Sir, yours most truly,

"WM. BRODIE, *Secy. R.S.A.*"

On the 1st of October the Council met again and the crossed lists received having been carefully scrutinised by the President and Secretary, four names of Academicians were selected by the Council and transmitted to the Honourable Board of Trustees, in terms of Treasury Minute of 25th February 1858, from which to select one to recommend to the Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury for appointment to the vacant office, and that of Mr. William Fettes Douglas having been selected by the Board, and afterwards approved by the Lords of the Treasury, Mr. Douglas was confirmed in the appointment to the Principal Curatorship of the National Gallery.

The selection of Mr. Douglas to this important office, it is gratifying to know, is entirely in accordance with the wishes of the Academy, and the Council take this opportunity of putting on record their opinion that it would be difficult to find an artist better qualified than Mr. Douglas to perform the duties incumbent on him as Curator, or who will more conscientiously discharge them, so as to promote the highest interests of a great public Institution, and to continue and strengthen the perfect harmony which has long subsisted between the Honourable Board and the Academy.

The Council cannot close this Report without recognising the fact that the success which they and former Councils have had the pleasure of recording, has been only attained by the devoted and self-sacrificing energy of the Members of the Academy, ever since its origin, and that it can only be

maintained by the same in the future, especially by fully appreciating the paramount importance of supporting and rendering as attractive as possible the Annual Exhibition, by sending to it, as far as may be in their power, their best works—works which, by conducing to noble pleasure and elevated thought, shall sustain and advance the character of Scottish Art.

DANIEL MACNEE,
President.

ROYAL ACADEMY,
EDINBURGH, 14th November 1877.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Royal Scottish Academy of Painting, Sculpture, and Architecture, held in the Academy Library, Edinburgh, on Wednesday, the 14th November 1877, the Office-bearers were elected, and the Council declared for the ensuing year, as follows, viz. :—

Council.

SIR DANIEL MACNEE, PRESIDENT AND TRUSTEE.

GEORGE HAY, Esq.

WILLIAM M'TAGGART, Esq.

J. DICK PEDDIE, Esq.

J. B. M'DONALD, Esq.

JOHN SMART, Esq.

KENNETH MACLEAY, Esq.

WILLIAM BRODIE, Esq., SECRETARY AND TRUSTEE.

CHARLES LEES, Esq., TREASURER AND TRUSTEE.

KENNETH MACLEAY, Esq., TRUSTEE.

KENNETH MACLEAY, Esq.,
WALLER H. PATON, Esq., } AUDITORS.

JOHN HUTCHISON, Esq., LIBRARIAN.

GEORGE HAY, Esq.,
WILLIAM M'TAGGART, Esq., } CURATORS OF LIBRARY.

KENNETH MACLEAY, Esq.,
WM. M'TAGGART, Esq.,
GEORGE HAY, Esq., } VISITORS OF THE LIFE SCHOOL.

NOTE.

At the same Meeting Messrs. W. D. M'KAY, D. W. STEVENSON, and JAMES DOCHARTY, were elected Associates of the Academy.



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